

MEETING SUMMARY

Hatchery Scientific Review Group Phoenix D Room, Radisson Hotel, SeaTac Washington April 12-14, 2000

Agenda: The purpose of this meeting was to provide an information base for the HSRG; continue the development of an HSRG framework and work plan; act on deferred grants; tour a fish marking facility; meet with agency decision makers and science teams; to establish HSRG policies and procedures; and to review a Report to Congress outline.

In Attendance:

- HSRG members John Barr, Lee Blankenship, Don Campton, Trevor Evelyn, Conrad Mahnken, Lars Mobrand, Robert Piper, Lisa Seeb and Bill Smoker.
- Facilitation team members Barbara Cairns, Kathy Hopper, Michael Kern, BJ Mirk and Jim Waldo.
- The Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (HRCC) met with the HSRG on April 14.
- Several others made presentations and/or attended specific agenda items on April 12 and 13, at the request of the HSRG (see below).

Discussions/Presentations:

Kathy Hopper reviewed a series of documents and references provided to the HSRG to establish a base of background information on hatcheries in Washington State. Much of the information will be provided electronically, via email or a web repository.

Steve Smith and Derek Poon of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) made a presentation on the purpose and contents of the Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs). NMFS is requiring the state, the tribes and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to complete for each species at each facility where there are federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) fishery stocks. NMFS will then develop Biological Opinions focused on making hatcheries aid or not impede salmon recovery, while meeting tribal treaty obligations. The HSRG intends to use completed HGMPs as a source of baseline information and recognizes that they could be one mechanism by which hatchery reforms are implemented.

Lars Mobrand led the HSRG in a discussion of its draft framework. The group made revisions to the framework and assigned teams of two or three members to draft each section.

The group agreed with Jim Waldo's assessment that the purpose of the framework is to organize scientific information with logic, knowledge, clarity and completeness. They also agreed that the completed framework could have the following uses: 1) to provide the basis for developing scientifically sound decisions and a strategy to reposition hatcheries to focus on the benefits they can provide for helping recover species and supporting sustainable fisheries; 2) to help guide initial actions to reduce risks from hatcheries and comply with the ESA; 3) to help NMFS and the co-managers develop comprehensive species management plans and basin plans that go

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beyond ESA requirements; 4) to provide guidance on operations, management and implementation; 5) to provide guidance on monitoring and evaluation activities; 6) to direct a coherent, long term research program that leads to real management changes; and 7) to inform hatchery education and outreach programs.

The HSRG discussed selection of a chair. The Congressional legislation that created the HSRG directs that the chair be selected from one of the independent scientists selected through the American Fisheries Society. Lars Mobrand was elected chair by a unanimous vote.

The HSRG decided to hold its May meeting in Silverdale/Manchester, WA. It also selected dates for meetings in June, July, August and September and chose tentative dates for October and December.

The facilitation team recommended that the HSRG adopt a set of policies and procedures to ensure that the group conducts its business in an efficient, effective and fair manner; the decision making process is documented; and the HSRG maintains its status as an independent source of scientific information and recommendations. After reviewing a set of policies from a similar organization, the group agreed to use these policies as a model, with a series of modifications, and directed the facilitators to present a revised set of policies for adoption.

The HSRG excused the facilitation team so that the HSRG could discuss their facilitation needs for the rest of the year. The group decided to retain Long Live the Kings/Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell through December, 2000 and to consider their facilitation needs for 2001 in October, 2000.

Barry Berejekian, NMFS Manchester, made a presentation on hatchery fish/wild fish interactions on the morning of April 13. This presentation was also attended by members of the respective science teams the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) put together to work on hatchery reform. Agency science team members were introduced to the HSRG and ate lunch with them.

The HSRG considered the grant requests that had been deferred at their last meeting pending more information. All deferred grant requests were approved, at a reduced level.

BJ Mirk led the HSRG through a discussion of their draft short and long term work plans. The group finalized their short term plan—to take them through the June, 2000 Congressional briefing on hatchery reform—and discussed a draft long term plan for review at the next meeting.

Barbara Cairns provided the HSRG with an update on preparations for the reports to Congress that the HSRG and Long Live the Kings (LLTK) are each to complete by June 2000. The HSRG and LLTK decided to present one joint report. LLTK will work with the HSRG to create a draft report for review at the May meeting.

HSRG Chair Lars Mobrand asked Jim Waldo to provide a summary of a meeting Lars and WDFW chief scientist Jim Scott held to discuss how the HSRG could assist WDFW in the short

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term, without being distracted from its own work plan and framework development. The recommendation from that meeting was that the HSRG appoint several of its members to a task team, to serve as scientific consultants to WDFW between now and June to provide an indication of whether WDFW activities are in line with potential HSRG recommendations. The group agreed that the full HSRG would consult with WDFW and review the state's preliminary framework.

The HSRG concluded the meeting with a tour of the WDFW Soos Creek Hatchery, to see a new mass marking system, and by meeting with the HRCC to provide a progress update.